

SECRET

. A special meeting of the CIA RETIREMENT BOARD was called by Mr. Robert S. Wattles, the Director of Personnel, to consider the case of [REDACTED] This meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, 26 October 1970, with the following present:

Mr. Robert S. Wattles (To open the meeting.)

[REDACTED] Member, Acting Chairman
[REDACTED] P Member
[REDACTED] DI Member
[REDACTED] gal Advisor
[REDACTED] Technical Advisor
[REDACTED] Executive Secretary
[REDACTED] Recording Secretary

MR. WATTLES: Let me thank you for coming, because I know it's an imposition on you, on a short call like this. I'll explain why I've asked you to come and then, [REDACTED] I would like you to assume the chair and I'll get out of here, because I'm not a member of the Board.

You have already been telephoned about this case of [REDACTED] but upon second thought and the advice of my staff I feel it's highly desirable that there be a formal meeting of the Board in consideration of this case.

Background. [REDACTED] was nominated to us by the Clandestine Services last spring for suitability, and in a series of negotiations with her she ultimately signed a resignation effective the end of October. We have had great difficulty down through the summer and early fall in trying to negotiate with her on many of her considerations, and, as you see here, quite late in the game she is now asking for admission to the CIARDS.

If the Board should find against her request, she will have to be given the usual time for appeal and so on, which will run past the end of October. But this is management's choice, not hers. So we would let the case run until such time as it can in a technical sense be brought to a proper conclusion.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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25X1A

I have just received a memorandum from [REDACTED]
which he signed for Tom Karamessines, dated 26 October 1970, on the
subject of Mrs. [REDACTED] request. It has just been handed to me.

25X1A

So, Charlie, if I may ask you to take over, and I will
excuse myself. And when this session is over, if you have anything else
to take up, fine. If not, thank you very much for the imposition on your
time.

. . . . Mr. Wattles then withdrew from the
meeting, and Mr. [REDACTED] then took over as the
Acting Chairman

25X1A

[REDACTED] think the first thing I ought to do is read
this memo.

25X1A

25X1A Every one here has a copy of Mrs.
[REDACTED] memo dated 7 October 1970.

25X1A [REDACTED] But not a copy of this memo from [REDACTED]

25X1A
25X1A

[REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A [REDACTED] No.

25X1A [REDACTED] Has everybody read the memo from Mrs.

25X1A

No.

Then we will take time now to do that.

And then I will read to you the memo from [REDACTED] (Reading)

25X1A

26 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

25X1A

SUBJECT: Request by Mrs. [REDACTED] for Consideration of
Domestic Service as Qualifying for the CIARDS and
Retire 31 October 1970

25X1A

1. This memorandum submits a request by Mrs. [REDACTED] GS-12,
CA Staff, for consideration of approximately 54 months of domestic service as
qualifying for the CIARDS. If the request is approved, she desires to retire
31 October 1970.

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- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] 57 years of age, has completed 28 years of Federal Service including 23 years with the Agency. She bases her request for domestic qualifying service on the duties she performed between January 1952 and December 1958. She states that during that period she handled, trained [REDACTED] meetings were held in Washington, D. C., and some of the meetings were under extremely hazardous conditions. During this period she was required to assume an alias, use various types of non-official cover and had to follow covert tradecraft and defensive security procedures. She also claims that due to the sensitive operations she was engaged in she would be at a disadvantage in trying to describe her professional experiences to any prospective employer.
- 25X1A 3. A review of her record and discussions with several senior officers revealed that the duties as described by [REDACTED] are essentially correct but that the total time handling, etc., of agents would not constitute 54 months of domestic qualifying service for the CIARDS. We are, therefore, unable to recommend Mrs. [REDACTED] to become a participant in the CIARDS.

/S/ [REDACTED]
for
Thomas H. Karamessines
Deputy Director for Plans

25X1A

[REDACTED] Any discussion of the case?

25X1A

I guess it won't change my vote.

There are a lot of loose words that she

has been using here. She says - "I handled" - whatever that means!

Then she says, about being with the CI Staff - (reading): "From

approximately January 1952 to December 1953 I was a Headquarters Case

Officer responsible for FI/CI operations..." etc., etc. That's the

same as everybody else is doing here in Headquarters, and there's no

qualifying credit there.

25X1A

[REDACTED] The way she writes it, it seems to imply that she was dealing with agents here in the U.S.

25X1A

[REDACTED] Oh yes! that comes through clearly. She uses such words as - "responsible for" - and "under extremely hazardous conditions" - none of which are explained here.

And this business about it being impossible for her to cite her professional experiences in the Agency to a prospective employer,

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just what spy service is she going to join where she will have to tell all that? That has nothing to do with it. This whole thing was put together with a lot of thought by her, but she has avoided all of the specifics that should be in her paper.

[REDACTED] I submit, also, that even if she did all of this, the DDP is saying it doesn't add up to 54 months -- because they have looked at this whole six year period, and they're saying: No, she did not do it all of this time, she did it for something less than the 54 months she needs here.

25X1A

[REDACTED] John, do you have any thoughts on it?
[REDACTED] Not very positive thoughts. When she says, "I was responsible for three to seven agents" does she really mean she ran three to seven agents?

25X1A

[REDACTED] That is what she is trying to imply, I think. But what she may have done was take care of their records, their finances, and things like that. As I say, she has words like that, when she could use straightforward Anglo-Saxon words that mean what they say -- but she strictly avoided that all through this description she gave.

25X1A

[REDACTED] And there was an occasional meeting with them. Yes. But this business about the CI Staff and that she "handled cases" -- she wasn't handling them from Headquarters at all, and she certainly wasn't handling them from the field!

25X1A

But it was a good try on her part, I must say! - a hell of a good try that she's put together here.

25X1A [REDACTED] That was my reaction when [REDACTED] called. There are any number of case officers here in Headquarters that could say the same thing.

25X1A

[REDACTED] Yes, and never having left the country. And we certainly couldn't say that was domestic qualifying service.

25X1A

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Well, shall we put it up for a vote?

I move that she not be placed in the CIARDS.

I second that.

And I would certainly vote negative, too.

But I don't know whether, as Chairman, I can vote.

Certainly you can. It's a unanimous

vote, then.

Yes.

. . . The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. . . .